



At pilgrimage to mothers' shrine, bishop calls for unity, solidarity



By Jay Nies

Like the ring adorning the new cross above the National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, a mother's love has no end.

About 300 people joined Bishop John R. Gaydos in blessing the cross May 3 during the first annual diocesan pilgrimage to the shrine, located in Laurie.

It was a celebration of obedient kinship with Christ and the vibrant grace of motherhood.

"Do whatever He tells you," Bishop Gaydos exhorted, echoing Mary's own words.

The bishop pointed out that just over 50 years ago, Blessed Pope Paul VI eloquently reasserted Mary's role as Mother of the Church.

"For the glory of the Blessed Virgin Mary and our own consolation, we proclaim the Most Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of the Church, of the whole People of God, faithful and pastors. And we call her most loving mother," Pope Paul stated in 1964, in a homily at the close of the third session of the Second Vatican Council.

He expressed the hope that this title of Mary Mother of the Church would lead Christians to honor Mary more deeply and to call upon her with still greater confidence.

"And so we do, especially in this holy spot," Bishop Gaydos proclaimed in his homily during the pilgrimage.

Honoring Mary means obeying her Son, Who wants all people to be united in Him and in concern for one another.

"Let us remember that advice of Mary to us — 'Do whatever He tells you' — as we contemplate the words of Jesus as He likens Himself and His Church as the vine and the branches," said Bishop Gaydos.

Inundated with text messages and real-time images of suffering "out there" in faraway places, people might be tempted to just turn

Sunshine and prayers fill the outdoor National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church during the first annual diocesan pilgrimage to the shrine on May 3. — Photo by Jay Nies

See PILGRIMAGE, page 10

Trust, faith and the Eucharist are at the heart of authentic Catholic stewardship, speakers say

By Jay Nies

"Would you like the opportunity to respond to your baptism?"

Whether fish needs frying or the church needs cleaning, Father Rickey Valleroy uses that phrase to invite his parishioners into deeper participation in the life of Christ in their community.

"No one has ever told me no," noted Fr. Valleroy, pastor of a thriving rural parish in the St. Louis archdiocese.

He spoke at one of two plenary sessions at the Region IX Stewardship Conference, held May 1 in Columbia.

The conference was a collaborative effort of

Catholic dioceses in Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska.

It brought together an energetic crowd of clergy and laypeople to ponder the fundamental connection between the Eucharist and authentic Catholic stewardship.

The theme, "To Be in Your Presence and Minister to You," is a phrase from the Second Eucharistic Prayer.

"Can anybody give me a better definition of stewardship than that?" Fr. Valleroy asked. "Everything we are, everything we do, everything

See STEWARDSHIP, page 5

Sisters at school in Nepal report on earthquake aftermath

See letter from Bishop Gaydos on Page 3

By Jay Nies

The ground never convulsed under Sister Andre Maureen Soeté SSND's feet during her tenure as principal of St. Peter Interparish School in Jefferson City.

But she and her sister, Sister Barbara Soeté SSND, are now missioned at a school that's been sheltering families made homeless by a violent earthquake.

The 7.8-magnitude quake on April 25 claimed thousands of lives and obliterated entire villages in parts of Nepal.

Damaged roads have stymied relief efforts in remote areas. The greatest immediate needs are clean water and temporary shelter, according to people who are close to the devastation.

"Many here are just beginning to realize the enormity of

See EARTHQUAKE, page 6

IN THIS ISSUE...

Fr. Oscar Lukefahr CM The New Evangelization

The director of the Catholic Home Study Service points to Jesus' mother Mary as a model for discipleship and evangelization.

Page 13



Celebrating a founding father of the United States

As Blessed Father Junípero Serra's canonization draws near, Pope Francis celebrates a man who helped introduce the New World to Christ.

Page 7



Fr. Lukefahr taking a break from column ... Page 2

Van Gundy: "The only things that endure" ... Page 8

An illuminating history of the Jesuits..... Page 15

Filipinos to celebrate in Laurie, May 17 Page 20

EARTHQUAKE

From page 1

what has happened,” Sr. Barbara wrote in an e-mail to her fellow School Sisters of Notre Dame in the United States. “We are grateful that our school and village have suffered little in the devastation and know that sisters and many others across the world are holding Nepal in prayer.”

Sr. Andre Maureen and Sr. Barbara teach at Notre Dame School in Bandipur, about 90 miles from Kathmandu, Nepal’s capital.

Unlike 23 surrounding homes in Bandipur, the school’s buildings withstood the earthquake mostly intact.

“The people whose homes were lost are among the poorest in the area and are now without their day-labor jobs,” Sr. Barbara noted.

She relayed a report that Gorkha, which is about 40 miles north of Bandipur, near the quake’s epicenter, were 80 percent destroyed.

One of the other two sisters at the school in Bandipur

had gone to Kathmandu to buy textbooks when the earthquake struck.

Stranded in the city, she found her way to St. Xavier School, one of about 10 sites designated by the government for relief assistance in the capital city.

Sr. Barbara said a tent city had risen up on the St. Xavier School grounds, populated by those who are homeless or afraid to enter their destabilized houses.

“We continue to pray that the emergency relief will be sufficient and timely for those suffering in the aftermath of the quake,” she wrote. “Disease, starvation, and limited medical help for the injured as well as inaccessibility of remote areas remain critical concerns.”

“Namaste”

Notre Dame School in Bandipur has about 760 students in preschool through 10th grade.



The School Sisters of Notre Dame opened the school about 30 years ago. They made a point of including girls, whose opportunities were otherwise severely limited.

Jefferson City native Sister Kathleen Wegman SSND, chancellor of the Jefferson City diocese, taught in the school for a semester in 2000.

She keeps a photo of her students on a credenza in her office, in part to remind her of a transformative time in her life.

“Once you experience life in another culture, you’re always somewhat of a ‘marginal’ person,” she told *The Catholic Missourian* in 2007, when she was appointed chancellor. “You come back with a largeness of heart that’s so encompassing. It’s both a gift and a responsibility. I consider it a great blessing that shapes my prayer and my ability to hold whatever crisis we’re dealing with in its proper perspective.”

This week, Sr. Kathleen noted that the Nepalese put a heavy emphasis on education.

“There’s a lot of support for it,” she said. “The young people are very motivated.”

Nepal is overwhelmingly Hindu, with Christians making up a tiny minority. The entire 53,000-square-mile country has one Catholic bishop.

One thing Sr. Kathleen found particularly inspiring about the people is their focus on the common good in their decision-making.



TOP: Sister Andre Maureen Soeté of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, former principal of St. Peter Interparish School in Jefferson City, teaches at Notre Dame School in Bandipur, Nepal, in this undated file photo. MIDDLE: Students pray at the school. BOTTOM: A day at school.

“We’re much more individualistic here,” she stated. “They choose for the common good.”

Sr. Kathleen is still struck by the phrase people in Nepal use to greet each other: “*Namaste*.”

“It means, ‘The God in me

greet the God in you,” she said.

Now, people all over the world must step up with monetary and spiritual support.

“We need to help in any way we can, and be present to them with our prayers,” said Sr. Kathleen.

**ADVANCED
CHIMNEY
TECHNIQUES**
INC.
JAMESTOWN, MO.

We sell wood stoves!
**Complete
Chimney Service**

Inspections, Cleaning,
Reline, Repair,
Replace and Build all
Metal and Masonry Flues

www.advancedchimneytechniques.com

“SAFETY WITHOUT COMPROMISE”

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Jamestown 660-849-2525 | Columbia 573-442-4400 | Jefferson City 573-636-4460 | Sedalia/Marshall 660-826-2288 |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|

Oak Tree Villas

A STONEBRIDGE COMMUNITY

Jefferson City — (573) 893-3063
www.stonebridgeseniorliving.com

Let our family care for yours.

GEOTHERMAL HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING

BOSCH

Invented for life

Stieferman Heating Company 573-635-3547

100% GREEN, 101% COOL